

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 174749

EXDIS////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK CONCERN OVER SISMIK SAILING INTO AEGEAN

REF: A) STATE 166402, NOTAL B) ATHENS 6918 NOTAL

C) ANKARA 5539 NOTAL

1. GREEK CHARGE COUNDOURIOTES CALLED ON LAINGEN JULY 14  
TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER ANNOUNCEMENT BY TURKISH NATIONAL  
SECURITY COUNCIL THAT THE SISMIK WOULD SHORTLY SAIL "OUT

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OF TURKISH WATERS" INTO THE AEGEAN ACCOMPANIED BY TURKISH

NAVAL UNITS.

2. COUNDOURIOTES EXPLAINED THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN WARNINGS OF THE IMMINENCE OF SISMİK'S MAIDEN VOYAGE, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE TURKS HAD ANNOUNCED AN INTENT TO SAIL THE RESEARCH VESSEL INTO THE AEGEAN ACCOMPANIED BY AN "ARMADA" OF TURKISH WARSHIPS. THIS DECISION HAD, MOREOVER, BEEN TAKEN BY TURKEY, DESPITE CONTINUING GREEK-TURKISH DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, GREEK WARNINGS OF PROVOCATIVE TURKISH ACTIONS, AND DEMARCHES BY CERTAIN WESTERN POWERS, INCLUDING THE U.S. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, INDICATING THE SHIP WAS HEADED FOR CONTESTED AREAS OF AEGEAN, THUS CONFIRMED THE CONTINUATION OF TURKEY'S POLICY OF FAIT ACCOMPLI. BECAUSE THE SISMİK'S SAILING MIGHT LEAD TO A DANGEROUS CONFRONTATION, HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO

BRING THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY.

3. LAINGEN ASKED WHAT EVIDENCE GREEKS HAD THAT SISMİK WAS HEADED FOR CONTESTED AREAS. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS GREEK CONCLUSION, SAYING THAT REPORTED NAVAL ESCORT CLEARLY IMPLIED SHIP WOULD GO TO SUCH AREAS. LAINGEN EXPRESSED RESERVATION THAT THIS WAS NECESSARILY THE CASE AND NOTED WE HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF NAVAL ESCORT.

4. LAINGEN THEN REFERRED TO THE KUBISCH-BITSIOS CONVERSATION OF JULY 8 (REF B) DURING WHICH THE SECRETARY'S ORAL MESSAGE TO BITSIOS CONCERNING THE AEGEAN (REF A) WAS CONVEYED. LAINGEN NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD EXPRESSED OUR HOPE THAT GREECE WOULD ALSO ACT WITH RESTRAINT AND NOT OVERREACT TO THE SAILING OF THE SISMİK. LAINGEN POINTEDLY NOTED BITSIOS' ASSURANCE TO AMBASSADOR THAT GREECE WOULD ACT WITH MODERATION AND RESTRAINT AND WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

5. LAINGEN EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAD HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE TURKS WHO HAD INFORMED US OF THE NSC DECISION ON THE SAILING OF THE SISMİK, BUT, IN DOING SO, HAD MADE NO REFERENCE TO NAVAL SHIPS. MOREOVER, JUST RECENTLY, CAGLAYANGIL HAD, IN THE PRESENCE OF TWO VISITING CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS, ASSURED AMBASSADOR MACOMBER THAT

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TURKEY WOULD TAKE NO BELLIGERENT ACTION UNLESS ATTACKED, WOULD EXPECT THE SAME FROM GREECE, AND WOULD "MAKE NO DEMONSTRATIONS" NEAR GREEK ISLANDS (REF C). ACCORDING TO CAGLAYANGIL, THE TURKS WOULD ONLY CONDUCT PEACEFUL, SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION AND WOULD BE "VERY CAREFUL" WHEN SISMİK FINALLY SETS SAIL. LAINGEN CONCLUDED BY REEMPHASIZING OUR HOPE AND CONFIDENCE THAT GREECE WOULD AVOID PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS AND ANY OVERREACTION ON ITS PART.

6. LAINGEN ALSO ASSURED COUNDOURIOTIS THAT GREEK VIEWS ON  
THIS MATTER WOULD BE FORWARDED ON TO THE SECRETARY. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OCT: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O MR. OTTO. 7-14-76.

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